

Environmental Justice Overview: EPA Region III

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Introduction

- Overview of the EPA structure within the Region
 - Responsibilities and role of the Office of Enforcement, Compliance and Environmental Justice (OECEJ) within the Region
 - Role of the Regional Environmental Justice Coordinator
 - Key considerations and policy background
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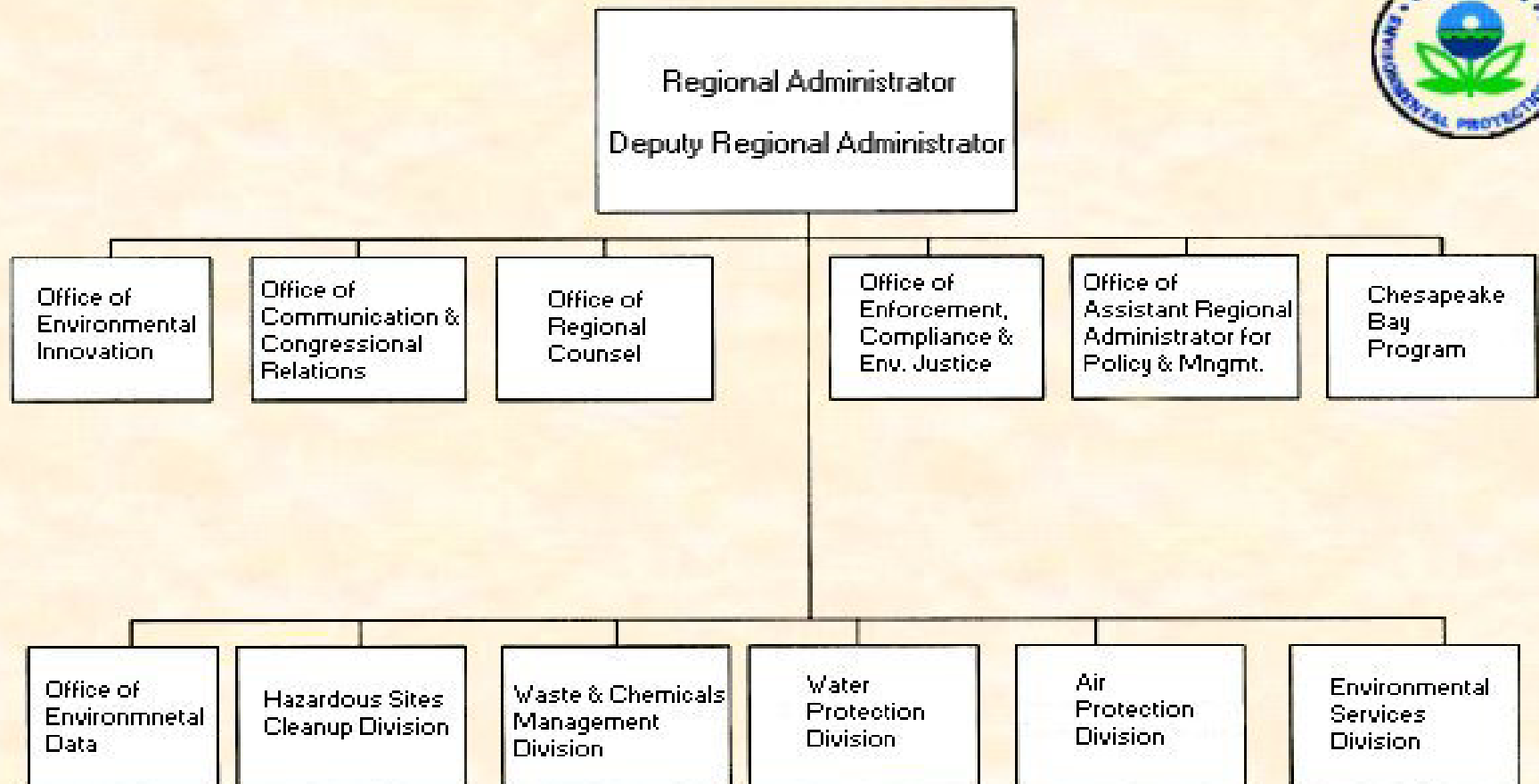
Regional States

**United States
Environmental Protection Agency
REGION III**



Regional Organizational Chart

Environmental Protection Agency, Region III



Environmental Justice (EJ)

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations".

This order provides for fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

EJ and the Region

Regional Approach to EJ

1. Proactive approach to problem solving
 2. Collaborative model for interaction with stakeholders
 3. Region as a facilitator and advisor
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EJ and the Region

Challenges to achieving success

1. Communication
2. Trust
3. Paradigm shift
4. Perception
5. Economics
6. Risk

Park Heights Auto Body/ Auto Repair Shop

Case Study



Background

- The Park Heights community in Baltimore City, Maryland is a largely low-income and minority community that has long been in need of redevelopment and revitalization



PARK HEIGHTS

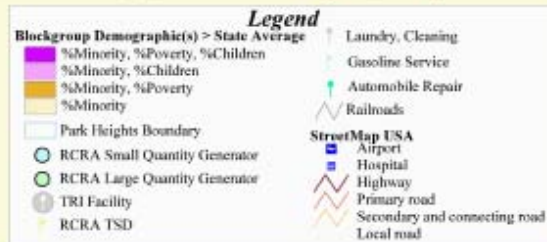


Label	RCRA Small Quantity Generator
	BALTIMORE POLICE DEPT NORTHWESTERN DIST
	SCRAPPY INC
	NORTHWEST BODY & FENDER INC
	BALTIMORE AUTO FRAME INC
	BEAUMONT AUTO BODY
	GOOFREY AUTO WORKS
	FOURCEY AUTO BODY & FENDER
	MANES BODY SHOP INC
	ROBBINS- COHEN- BERGER- & EPSTEIN MD PA
	MCINTIRE- JOHN MD
	HEBIT OIL CORP-BALTIMORE
	GOOFREY AUTO WORKS
	CROWN STATION MD-025
	AMCO #25-TANKS
	AMCO #64735-TANKS
	AMCO #660-TANKS
	CATHEDRAL BODY AND FENDER INC
	DAVIS TIRE CENTER INC
	NORTHWEST SUB # 3 CITY OF BALTIMORE
	A 1 AUTO PARTS
	B & B CLEANERS
	DANNO ARLINGTON INC



Label	RCRA Large Quantity Generator
	BALTIMORE REBUILDERS INC

Label	TRI Facility Name
	FEPSI-COLA OPERATING CO.
	PARKS SAUSAGE CO.



Data Sources:
 Roads - ESRI StreetMap
 Digital Raster Graphics - MapInfo
 Demographics - US Census Bureau
 TRI, RCRA Facilities - US EPA Facilities Database
 Blockgroup Boundaries & Railroads - US Census Bureau
 Laundry, Gasoline, & Auto Repair Facilities - Data & Analysis
 Park Heights Boundary - Derived from Baltimore City Planning Department Boundary Description





Key Issues

1. Waste oil in sewers
 2. Quality of life concerns
 3. Community health concerns
 4. Community request for assistance
 5. Collaborative model of action
 6. Need for community revitalization
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Regional Role

1. Coordination within the Region, as well as with EPA HQ and state
 2. Support of project
 3. Identification of need and benefit
 4. Oversight of the Project in partnership with all stakeholders
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Risks

- Park Heights is an area of concentrated commercial auto body shop activities
- The community expressed concern that the auto body and auto repair shops were sources of environmental pollution that adversely impacted community health



Risk Management

- Develop collaborative model of action
- Reduce risk by eliminating waste discharges to sewers
- Improve quality of life for community
 - 1) Address community health concerns
 - 2) Assist with revitalization efforts



Risk Management, Continued

MDE and EPA Region III's Office of Compliance, Enforcement and Environmental Justice (OECEJ) worked together with the community through an integrated strategy to address the problems auto body shops present to the community



Risk Management, Continued

1. EPA's Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance (OECA) provided \$275,000 in funding for this project
 2. Generation and distribution of a compliance assistance workbook for auto body and auto repair shop owner
 3. Development of a multimedia checklist for the two rounds of compliance inspections at the shops
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Risk Management, Continued



4. Hiring of community members in order that they could locate and identify the universe of auto body and auto repair shops in the Park Heights Community
5. Ten teams of inspectors from USEPA Region III's Office of Enforcement, Compliance and Environmental Justice completed over 40 inspections in July, 2002. Approximately the same amount of inspections will occur in 2003

Risk Management, Continued



6. Shops were evaluated using Environmental Business Practice Indicators (EBPIs) to see if the shops will be able to improve their environmental performance by July, 2003
7. MDE is providing compliance assistance and pollution prevention outreach to the entire universe of auto body shops in Park Heights between the two periods of inspection (July 2002 & July 2003)

Current Status

- Improved communication and cooperation among EPA Region III, MDE, and the Park Heights Community
 - Shop owners will be trained to conduct a self certification program geared toward environmental compliance
 - Environmental and public health risks were reduced because of actions taken by collaborative team effort
 - Region III's OECEJ inspectors conducted 46 inspections out of 57 auto body shops identified in this geographic area
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Thor Chemical (Cato Ridge, South Africa)

Case Study



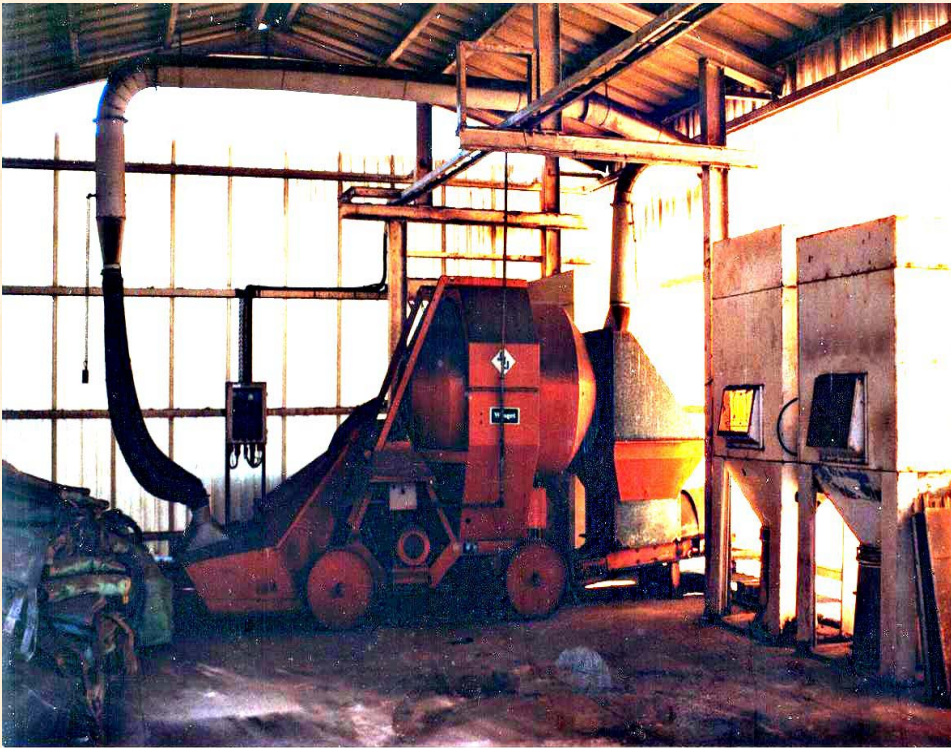
Thor Chemical Plant, South Africa



Background

Thor Chemicals began operations in South Africa in the early 1970s. The company manufactured mercuric chloride catalysts used in making vinyl chloride from acetylene. In the late 1980s, Thor Chemicals developed a process for the recovery of mercury from the depleted catalyst. They collected spent catalyst from customers world-wide and shipped it to the Cato Ridge plant to recover the mercury. In 1992, several workers were identified with profound health problems related to plant operations. By 1994, the facility was closed. Thor has continues to monitor the spent catalyst storage facilities (warehouses, dams).

Thor Chemical Plant, South Africa





Key Issues

1. International EJ
 2. Mercury contamination and facility operation issues
 3. British ownership of company
 4. Human and animal exposures
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Key Issues

- 5. EPA consultation
 - 6. Study Concerns
 - 7. Social and political issues
 - 8. Risk
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Typical Surrounding Community



Risks

Thousands of barrels containing waste mercury compounds were stockpiled at the Thor plant. In 1992 three workers were found to be suffering from repeated, long-term mercury exposure; within months, one had died and another was in a coma. The third could no longer talk or walk. Another 27 workers were also injured by mercury poisoning while working at Thor.

Risks , Continued



Thor Chemical employee, Peter Cele, subsequently died from mercury poisoning

Risks, Continued

June 2000 - EPA visited the Thor site and identified several potential problems. Among these were concerns regarding:

- Resident's safety from the catalyst and other wastes stored onsite;
 - Potential for offsite contamination from mercury;
 - Continuing exposure affecting worker safety;
 - Feasibility of reclaiming the mercury from the waste streams;
 - Past facility operations resulting in contaminated waters and soils;
 - EPA observation of nearby residents washing clothes in the stream; and,
 - Residents statements to EPA that the contaminated stream water is used to water vegetable gardens and that cattle also graze in the area.
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Regional Role

1. Site investigation and scoping activity
 2. Remedial and recovery options
 3. Team building
 4. Risk management
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Risk Management

EPA proposed the following course of action:

- Install borings at the facility;
 - Samples should be collected along known or suspected drainage areas;
 - Analyze some samples for a larger spectrum of compounds; and,
 - Continue to offer technical assistance to South African authorities.
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Risk Management, Continued

In 1996, the South African government appointed a three person commission of inquiry to obtain evidence on the mercury poisoning and deaths of workers. The commission recommended burning the waste on site with safety standards one hundred times higher than currently allowed in South Africa. Before burning could begin, the government revoked the license. Up to 6.6 million pounds of toxic mercury waste is still staged at this plant awaiting final disposition.

Current Status

- EPA is waiting for South African authorities to finish their review of EPA's proposal which would complete site characterization and allow for appropriate remedy selection. EPA's trip report, along with recommendations, was submitted shortly after the trip.
 - No action, except for the filing of lawsuits, has occurred at this site where the barrels of mercury are still staged awaiting shipment back to their points of origin or for on-site treatment.
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Chester Risk Study Chester, Pennsylvania

Case Study





Background



Key Issues

1. Request from citizens for lead study
 2. No study of this type had been done before
 3. Need for collaboration/cooperation from all stakeholders
 4. Clusters of facilities
 5. Public perception of regulators
 6. Complexity of assessment
 7. Merging of public health and environmental health assessment
 8. Actions of citizens
 9. State response
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Regional Role

1. Design and conduct risk study
 2. Facilitation of actions
 3. Development of Task Force
 4. Decision making and negotiations
 5. Outreach, education and community involvement
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Regional Roles and Activities

Team Building and Stakeholder Involvement



Regional Activities

1. Annual All States Environmental Justice Meetings and Conference Calls
 2. Outreach to Academic Institutions, Community Groups and Organizations, Professional Organizations, etc.
 3. Training, public presentations, workgroup participation
 4. Consultation, technical support, advice
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Regional Roles and Activities

Stakeholder Support





Regional Activities

1. EJ Small Grants Program
 2. ECO Interns
 3. Consultation, Technical Expertise,
collaboration with stakeholders
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EJ Small Grants Program

1. Established in 1994
2. Multimedia Granting Authority
3. Awards range up to \$20,000
4. Non-profit organizations, federally recognized tribes, and state recognized tribal organizations or indigenous peoples organizations who meet the definition of a non-profit organization are eligible to apply

EJ Small Grants Program, cont'd

5. 977 grants awarded since 1994 nationwide
 6. 90 grants awarded in EPA Region III since 1994
 7. Grants must either address multimedia issues, or be research oriented
 8. Awards for multimedia projects are for up to \$15,000 and up to \$20,000 for research projects under CERCLA
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EJ Small Grants Program, cont'd

Program Goals (multimedia projects):

1. Identify necessary improvements in communication and coordination among stakeholders, facilitate or information exchange, and create partnerships
 2. Build community capacity and enhance critical thinking and problem solving
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EJ Small Grants Program, cont'd

Program Goals (multimedia projects):

3. Enhance community understanding of environmental and public health information

EJ Small Grants Program, cont'd

Program Goal (research projects):

1. Project must serve as a model for other communities confronted with similar problems

EJ Small Grants Program, cont'd

Application Requirements:

1. Application for Federal Assistance Form (SF424) – signed original and one copy
 2. Federal Standard Form (SF424A) and budget detail
 3. A narrative/workplan not to exceed 5 pages
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EJ Small Grants Program, cont'd

Application Requirements:

4. A one page summary that:
 - a. Identifies EJ issues to be addressed
 - b. Identifies the EJ community/target audience
 - c. Identifies the environmental statutes/Act addressed by the project
 - d. Identifies the program goal
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EJ Small Grants Program, cont'd

Application Requirements:

- 5. Letters of commitment
- 6. Non-profit status

Submissions – The request for proposals should appear in the federal register and on the the EPA website in September, with a December deadline

See:

http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej_smgrants.html